

Spring Break Edition

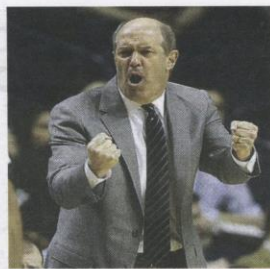


Traffic Surges in Nashville

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Should He Stay or Should He Go?

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The Bell Ringer

Montgomery Bell Academy 4001 Harding Road Nashville, TN March 17, 2016 Vol. LXXII, No. 5

In the Land of Green and Honey

SENIOR NOLAN SPEAR GOES UNDERCOVER AT THE SISTER SCHOOL



Nolan enjoys unrelenting female attention on the Harpeth Hall Senior Patio.

By Nolan Spear
Editor-in-chief

Green plaid. Souby Hall resting at the top of a steep hill. Girls decked out in white and green crossing the lawn from class to class. When an MBA student envisions the phrase "a typical Harpeth Hall school day," images such as these are likely to enter his mind. I myself can attest to this statement. Since the beginning of high school, whenever I was posed with the question of "What do you think really goes on at Harpeth Hall?" I could not picture much beyond girls in uniform walking around on campus. While this viewpoint may seem naïve, it is not meant to degrade the teaching within Harpeth Hall's classrooms. I was simply uninformed. The only concrete facts that I could align with what I considered to be a typical Harpeth Hall school day were the fact that their classes are significantly longer than those of MBA, and that they operate on a block schedule, meaning that their classes rotate between days and different "blocks" of classes fall on different days. These facts

were all that I knew, and as this year began, I decided that I needed to expand my horizons.

Spending the day shadowing a Harpeth Hall student is not a task unfamiliar with the editors of *The Bell Ringer*. Wells Hamilton '14 was lucky enough to spend a spring day shadowing an editor of *Logos*, Harpeth Hall's highly regarded student newspaper, and several editors prior to Wells also spent school days trekking through the buildings on Hobbs Road. Earlier this year, while rereading Wells's recollections from his experience, I decided to follow his path and spend a Thursday afternoon shadowing Keely Hendricks, one of the senior editors of *Logos*. My schedule was simple: four academic classes, one break period, one lunch period, and one pep rally. The topic on the forefront of my mind as the day began was singular: how do Harpeth Hall's longer class periods affect teaching styles and classroom interaction? And as the day went by, I found myself not only answering this question, but reflecting on many others as well. Harpeth Hall is a unique environment for students of all

ages, one both alike and dissimilar from MBA, and as I strolled back to the visitor parking lot at 3:00 on that Thursday afternoon, I had acquired a welcome understanding for the workings beneath "Honeybear Nation."

Before my travels around the hills of Hobbs Road can be described, we must first begin at a Starbucks on Harding Pike. It was here that I met my host for the day, Keely Hendricks. Keely's nose was buried in a French textbook as I approached her in the coffee shop, and we discussed briefly the business of this pre-Spring Break period. After each loading up with coffee, we travelled to Harpeth Hall separately, with her parking in her usual spot in the front of school, and me by the theater in the visitor's lot.

It is at this point in my day where I must admit that some hesitation occurred. My still-naïve mind had no idea how Harpeth Hall students would react to seeing a male on campus. As multiple hypothetical scenarios ran through my mind, Keely approached my car, and I had no choice

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Cellophony Blows Audience Away

By John Fioravanti
Asst. Features Editor

If you missed Cellophony this year, you missed one of the finest concerts that has ever been performed at MBA. The incredible talent on stage, coupled with impressive technical effects and Dr. Boyd's witty banter with the audience as the master of ceremonies, was truly second to none. *The Bell Ringer* was lucky enough to sit down with Cellophony's director, senior William Hall, and discuss his journey in creating the show and what it has meant to him.

What has changed from shows in the past?

The concerts in the past had much more of a casual "guys getting together after 8th period in the theater to play music" vibe than it did a formal concert or show experience. One of the ways that I wanted to accomplish a new vision this year was trying to perfect the technical and visual aspects of the show and doing what I call "collaboration numbers," a big song at the beginning that incorporates ten vocalists from MBA and Harpeth Hall, a full band, and also the entire orchestra. And luckily, we were able to perform those types of songs at the very opening of the show, in the middle of the show, and then to close the show. It's a way to bring lots of different types of musicians together, strings and orchestra, a band, and singers. But also it's a way to have collaboration between MBA and Harpeth Hall and to produce these big, eleven o'clock numbers.

How long did it take to put together Cellophony, and what's the process that's involved?

It's a really long process. Traditionally the show is in April, but this year it was in February. We had a lot of scheduling challenges since the play occupied the theater, so we couldn't use the theater until the Tuesday night before the Wednesday show. But the process starts in early November with a lot of planning as far as logistics: getting people involved, coming up with an image for the show, and a lot of technical stuff. Right before Christmas break, we made the announcement about auditions and got the word out to people. And then from there in mid-January we started a lot more planning: plan-

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Mr. Tipps Adjusts on the Fly

By Andrew Kaplan
News Editor

The 2015-2016 school year has seen a variety of changes in MBA's campus environment, but few as intriguing and unique as the addition of Mr. Mark Tipps. Following an illustrious law career and a great deal of work in the political sphere, Mr. Tipps decided to come to MBA for a change of pace. Mr. Tipps' role as a history teacher soon shifted to that of athletic director as the position opened up in the fall. *The Bell Ringer* sat down with Mr. Tipps to learn more about his career as well as his transition to life on The Hill.

Bell Ringer: What made you decide to come to MBA?

Mr. Mark Tipps: As a teenager I loved sports and wanted to coach, but my high school and college football coaches encouraged me to attend medical school or law school. So, I went to and graduated from law school, then practiced law and worked in politics for 30 years. I enjoyed it, but as I got older I realized that the chase for money is a hollow one. My law practice focused on representing large corporations in lawsuits, and while interesting, as time passed it became less and less fulfilling. I wanted to do something more meaningful, and I found myself thinking about my old coaches and teachers who had had such an influence on me. I began

talking to Mr. Gioia about five years ago. I knew I wanted to be at an all-boys school because I had attended Baylor in the 1970s when it was all boys, and I loved the sense of brotherhood that it fostered. I was familiar with MBA because my son, John, attended here. After John graduated last year, Mr. Gioia asked if I was still interested. I was completing my 30th year of law practice, so it seemed like a good time to make the change.

BR: What has your experience at MBA been like so far?

MT: It's been great. MBA is a friendly community, and being around young people makes you feel more energetic. The food is also good, which is a problem -- I was hoping to lose a little weight!

BR: What is being a teacher at MBA like, given your past work experiences?

MT: Teaching American Government is pretty easy given my past, but I've had to brush up on my marginal cost curves for Economics! I have tremendous respect for people who are teaching four or five classes a day. That's very, very demanding. Teaching itself has some similarities to what I did as a trial lawyer. I spent most of my time marshaling facts and crafting them into persuasive arguments for judges, juries, arbitrators, mediators or clients, such as Boards of Trustees. Here, I do a similar thing, but for students.

BR: What has the transition to Athletic Director been like?

MT: Good. Mr. Gioia was kind enough to appoint Mike Anderson and Frank Simpson as Assistant ADs and hired Gracie Killman, and those folks have been great to work with and have made the transition smooth. At the end of the day, it's similar to the other administrative jobs I've had -- chief of staff/ counsel to US Senators, political campaign manager and law firm managing partner -- it's primarily about problem solving, getting along with people, and being surrounded by strong colleagues. And I don't mind upset parents most of the time because I've raised three kids, and I've been upset a few times myself.

BR: What are your goals for the MBA athletic department, both in the near and distant future?

MT: At my age I don't worry a lot about the "distant future" -- I might not have one! In the short run, I'd like to help Mr. Gioia improve our athletic facilities. I'd also like to be a resource for MBA parents engaged in the difficult task of raising their kids. And my main focus and passion is to educate our parents and boys about the great opportunities that exist for MBA athletes to play collegiately at the small college level. We have too much of a "D1 or bust" mentality here, and it's short sighted. Some of the best academic



schools in the country are small liberal arts colleges, and they would love to have MBA athletes. These schools offer the best of all worlds -- a chance to continue your sport at a highly competitive level, with great friends, at a place that considers you a student first and an athlete second and can prepare you well for any path you choose.

Mr. Tipps' breadth of experience in administrative settings positions him to excel at the helm of MBA's athletic department. We look forward to having the MBA experience enriched from his presence and influence.

Prom Committee Plans for an Outstanding Event

By Drew Davis
Once and Future Prom King

As April approaches, anticipation for Prom reaches its peak. Juniors and seniors are anxious to find a date, to plan for pictures and dinner, to make sure that the afterparty is set to go. Yet no mention of prom would be complete without acknowledgement of the dance's theme: Pop Art.

The prom theme has been varied in recent years, but it's usually centered around fictional characters such as Beowulf or the Avengers. This year's Pop Art theme stems from the mind of senior Davis Voecks, who posed the idea to Dr. Kinch in the winter.

Through the poinsettia sale and other fundraisers, the juniors have garnered a comfortable sum of money allowing them to create a memorable atmosphere for their senior elders. Dr. Kinch has been managing funds throughout the year in order to cover expenses necessary to orchestrate such a large school function. Though the students are responsible for renting or purchasing a tuxedo, their means

of transportation, their afterparty, and in the case of the juniors, their group meal, the school pays for the set, the music, and the senior dinner.

In the world of the prom set, Mr. Morrison is king. He has been in charge of "the prom build" for over a decade, and he is well-versed in painting, lighting, and woodwork. Rest assured, he knows what he is doing. He plans to fill the set with prints of Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, and other giants of Pop Art. The prints are small slides that will be projected through an overhead projector onto a large canopy at the front of the auditorium.

To begin the dance, the seniors will start in a dark room behind the theater. As their names are announced, they will walk through a tunnel of decorations and see the room for the first time.

Along with the aesthetics, music is equally vital. This year the

juniors have decided on a DJ as opposed to a live band. DJ DanCo will be providing the entertainment, playing songs chosen by the students. As MBA students typical-

recent history. The event is uniquely special to students, parents, and teachers, and the planners keep this fact firmly in mind. The night will exhibit MBA's broad community



ly have strong musical inclinations, the juniors planning the event have worked hard in order to formulate a suitable playlist.

This year's Prom is poised to go down as one of the finest dances in

and reflect the hard work from Dr. Kinch, Mr. Morrison and all of the volunteers. If you haven't already found a date, ask soon. You don't want to miss the great evening of April 2, 2016.

Mock Trial Team Sets Eyes on State Competition

By Andrew Kaplan
News Editor

Each spring, the Harpeth Hall mock trial team, also known as the #hhmockies, attempts to dethrone the MBA A team from their reigning city champion status. Yet for five straight years going into this February's district competition, Harpeth Hall has come up short. The MBA team now aims for its 6th straight city championship, and expectations are high.

The competition is comprised of 18 teams from across Davidson County, from both public and private schools. MBA had two teams participating, the A and B teams. The B team, led by senior Adam Young, made a strong showing and gave the Harpeth Hall

B team a run for their money late in the competition. However, they were unable to finish in the top 5 in terms of team finishers.

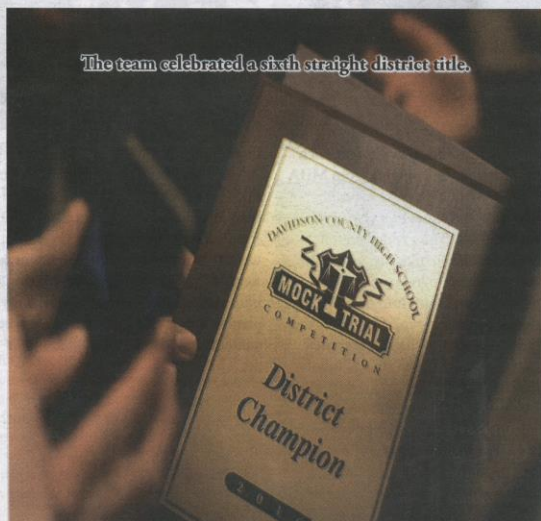
Therefore MBA's hopes and prayers to stave off the likes of Harpeth Hall, USN, Hume Fogg, MLK, and others fell to the A team once again. The A team comprised of seniors Andy Zhu, Cole Campbell, and Cameron MacDonald-Surman, juniors Andrew Kaplan and John Cooper, and sophomores Daniel Cowan, Jack Capizzi, and Harrison Kidd. The true key to the success of this team though, comes from its incredible coaches. Coach Wade Cowan and Coach Michael Stewart put in countless hours of preparation at the courthouse each night in the

weeks leading up to the competition as well as many additional hours poring over the case material and developing the best case that MBA can run to stump the competition.

Day One of the competition went by without a hitch. The MBA A team breezed through some less experienced opponents. On day two, the day began with a face-off against Harpeth Hall's B team. This contest was the first test of the skill of this year's MBA team. MBA defeated the Harpeth Hall B team handily. Then, round 4 (of 5 rounds) came round. This time, MBA faced the toughest of opponents, Harpeth Hall's A team. After defeating Harpeth Hall here, they ended up facing the same Harpeth Hall team (A) in the final round

only hours later. In this final round, MBA came away with a resounding victory that allowed MBA to claim another city title for themselves. This championship made six in a row, sending MBA to the State competition in March against the top teams from around the state.

The MBA Mock Trial A team is an extremely involved commitment at MBA, but it fosters a sense of camaraderie through competition against schools that MBA students rarely have the opportunity to compete head-on against, such as Harpeth Hall. If anyone is looking to get involved for next season, there will be a tournament in the fall that will serve as preparation for the state competition.



The team celebrated a sixth straight district title.



Lawyers Andy Zhu, Andrew Kaplan, and Daniel Cowan

Continued from front page

ning when the shows gonna be, pulling together a set list, and getting people interested. February 1st was the deadline for all auditions, and after that it was a matter of shaping up all these collaboration numbers and making it an experience that has variety but also, as a show, is very cohesive. Because at the end of the day, the whole process is about raising money for W. O. Smith and really supporting their mission, which is all about the power of music. So to have that cohesive vision of "we want to create this powerful musical experience for an audience," as opposed to just a casual get-together after school, speaks to that power of music, supports W. O. Smith, and informs people about what the project is.

What are some of the technical challenges you faced throughout the production?

The way we look at the technical stuff is we say, "This is a pain to do and it's a lot of things to organize, but at the end of the day, the technology can be a wall between the music and the audience." You always want the technology to be a vessel to carry the music to the audience. You don't want it to impede any sort of communication in any way. We had to get that really solid by being really diligent about sound, about lighting, and about the way the stage is set so none of that technical stuff gets in the way of the music. Because it's all about the music. In doing this, we provided an environment in which people who may not be experienced with the technical parts of it could come in and play their music with all those things in place to absolutely catapult them into the audience. Another important issue in this is how the stage is run. Tony Neuhoft did a really good job as a stage manager, managing the floor crew and set up of each act. Managing the floor is a big part of the show, and if it's not done right, it can really get in the way. In between songs, you don't have an infinite amount of time to set up and turn everything on. You want that to be very quick and smooth. Dr. Boyd played an integral role in the flow of the show as the emcee, filling in many of those moments with some great humor as well as information about W. O. Smith. The show would not have been the same without him.

What is some of the history of Cellophony?

Cellophony was started in 2003 by senior Hamilton Berry. The name "Cellophony" comes from the fact that both Hamilton and a friend played cello at the first performance. He stated that, "It was basically us and two families in the theater together with a few good friends to raise funds for W. O. Smith." Since then, Hamilton Berry has graduated from Juilliard and now plays with a group called Decoda. We thought it be

a really cool thing for him to come back and be a part of the show. I think just for him to see not only that it still exists but also how much it's changed was really powerful for him. And it was a good experience for the MBA guys seeing how professional musicians work like that.

What do you, the director, hope for the future of Cellophony?

I want to see it continue down the path that it has been on for the past few years, continuing on the whole idea that we're trying to create a concert that's an experience for other people, and it's not just about us as musicians wanting to go up there and selfishly play our music. It's a mutual experience between the musician and the listener. It has to be. So I want to watch it continue that direction with collaboration with Harpeth Hall and bringing in professional musicians, as those aspects were both very successful. I also just want to watch it continue to grow on the fundraising side. The more money we can bring in, the better, but also I hope the event becomes more renowned for incredibly talented students standing up to support a really good cause in a way that's very professional and extremely entertaining. You know, I hate how the term "student-run" can have a negative connotation of a lesser quality. I think that's really bad. We can make students realize that we have the passion and the tools to make this happen if we can be diligent and put all of our effort and all of our knowledge into making a great experience. I hope Cellophony will make people understand that. But it's really grown over the past few years. Over the last two years, revenue has been increased by over 180%. So it's really grown, and we are extremely happy with it. I had a lot of great help this year. I could not have done it without people like Will Trotman ('18) and Harrison Avery ('18). Will played a big role in learning the ropes of how the show is run, and he also helped with several design elements in the show. He is an incredible musician and played on almost every song in the show as well. Harrison Avery did an amazing job as lighting designer and associate producer. He is such a detail-oriented person. I know that the future of Cellophony is very bright with these guys at the helm.

What has Cellophony meant to you personally?

Cellophony was a great opportunity to bring people together around music in order to support a great cause. It was really special to see the performers and everyone involved with the show, after working hard for weeks in rehearsals late at night, come together on the night of the performance. To look out from behind the black curtain and see a packed house right before the start of the show was something special. And



Both MBA and Harpeth Hall students collaborated to present an extremely well-received event.



Junior Will Gray took the lead on multiple solos.



A mix of young and old contributors celebrates on stage following the performance.

I was very honored to work with such great musicians and singers from MBA and Harpeth Hall. That was another huge part of the show this year: collaborating with HH. They added so much to the concert. People like Mr. Meredith who played an integral part in incorporating the orchestra into the show. He actually made arrangements for the orchestra for two of the songs from scratch. And having the strings involved was an entire different layer musically. Rarely do we get the collaboration between singers, rock band, and orchestra, and I think that it brought a grandness to the whole production quality by having a full thirty-piece orchestra over there. Also, Mr. Smyth did some

incredible work with the Headmaster's Singers, and it was a pleasure to have them be a part of the show. Mr. Rundberg also did some great arrangement for horn parts in the finale. Overall, it was an absolute pleasure and honor to work with this special group of people, both students and teachers. It was my privilege to create an atmosphere where students could get up and share their art.



Kevin Stallings: Keep Him or Fire Him?

The Case For Stallings

By Ben Coulthard
Sports Editor

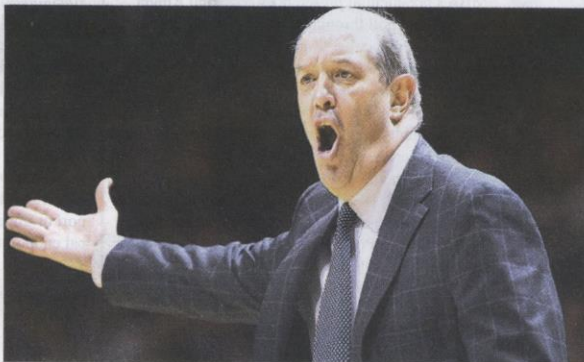
As a college basketball coach, it's generally a good sign when your name is brought up with coaching legends such as Jim Boeheim, Tom Izzo, and Mike Krzyzewski. Those three are the only Power Five conference coaches that have currently spent more time at one school than Kevin Stallings.

Having now spent 17 seasons at the helm of the Vanderbilt basketball ship, Kevin Stallings has seen just about everything there is to see in college basketball. Stallings has coached three SEC Players of the Year, produced seven NBA draft picks with more to come in the near future, and led the Commodores to six NCAA tournaments. Yes, these past few years have been more than trying for the current Commodore head coach, but Stallings has done about as much as possible to benefit the Commodore program.

The main reason the Vanderbilt program should decide to keep Coach Stallings is because he's proven he can make it to the Big Dance, and while the results from the past two or three seasons have ended up with less than positive results, at least Commodore fans know what they will get from Stallings (disregarding the year of the "Magnificent Seven," where Stallings used two walk-ons and the team manager nightly because multiple scholarship players left the team). It's normally the same story. Vanderbilt will start out really strong, but will also end up losing a game or two they probably should have won. They enter SEC play with high expectations and surprise a few teams like Kentucky, but may lose a game to a lowly Mississippi State team. They'll enter the conference tournament as a five or six seed, win a game or two, but get outmatched by a team like Kentucky or Texas A&M. They'll still make the NCAA tournament, however. Stallings finds ways to get his team to make the "Big Dance."

Stallings is also a proven recruiter, putting together solid classes that have included stars such as John Jenkins, Damian Jones, and Festus Ezeli. He can get players. They may not be McDonald's All-Americans that will go on to Kentucky, but they know how to play sound fundamental basketball, and Stallings is able to improve their games to be successful in a tough SEC conference that proves tough night in and night out.

Commodore fans shouldn't want Kevin Stallings to be run off, because who else would we get? There really isn't another big name out there that would be able to match Stallings' record at Vanderbilt. Stallings has proven he knows how to get things done with what he is able to put together. Vanderbilt has never been a gold mine of prospects, but Stallings is able to get players who want to play to come to the university and produce. Isn't that all a fan base can ask from their coach and team?



The Case Against Stallings

By Andrew Kaplan
News Editor

It is time for Kevin Stallings' tenure at Vanderbilt University to come to an end. Stallings has failed to create a winning culture during his eighteen years at Vanderbilt. Despite finding intermediate levels of success at times, he has never made a run in the NCAA tournament, even when his teams have been loaded with talent. While Stallings brings certain attributes to the Vanderbilt program that are advantageous, his has failed to elevate the team to the next level of competitive excellence. Vanderbilt should begin the coaching search.

Does the name John Jenkins ring a bell? How about Jeffrey Taylor? Festus Ezeli? Stallings' 2012 Vanderbilt basketball team contained all three of these superstar players, each of whom could have been the best player on nearly any other team in the country. The team was loaded with talent, and ranked #7 in the preseason polls that year. Vanderbilt even won the SEC championship against the eventual national champions, Kentucky. But when Vanderbilt was faced with an inferior opponent in Wisconsin in merely the second round, they caved under pressure. Stallings was unable to coalesce the team to persevere even into the Sweet Sixteen, stunning given the extraordinary talent that team possessed.

This season has been no different. While Vanderbilt has been able to pull off some solid wins against Kentucky, Florida, and Texas A&M, the season has been inconsistent at best. The Commodores started out the season ranked #18 and began to climb the polls in the first few weeks of the season as they annihilated inferior out-of-conference opponents. But inconsistency started to creep in. Vanderbilt lost to Dayton before conference play began. Soon Vanderbilt could not manage to defeat any team it was not supposed to beat going into the game. When the 'Dores faced the likes of Kansas, Baylor, and Purdue, they seemed to be absent in the second half. To cap it off, Stallings' 'Dores came out flat against Tennessee in their opening game of the SEC conference tournament and suffered an early defeat that may preclude the team from reaching the NCAA tournament. Inability to pull off victories against anyone who might be ranked at the time prevents a team from elevating to the next level of performance.

Once SEC play began, Vanderbilt managed to lose contests against a number of teams, but particularly Mississippi State, Ole Miss, and Arkansas, all clearly inferior opponents. As a result, Stallings solidified Vanderbilt as a bubble team for the NCAA tournament. Reaching March Madness on a consistent basis is one of the most objective metrics for determining whether or not a coach has been able to establish a pattern of success on a consistent basis within a program. It is time for Vanderbilt and Stallings to finally part ways.

MBA Students Weigh in on Presidential Race

By Andrew Kaplan
News Editor

A commonly uttered statement around MBA during this past voting season has been, "Don't even bother voting. Tennessee will just go red anyway." Well, the issuer of this statement may not be incorrect, but for presidential primary season, does Tennessee have the potential for any sort of deviation from the conservative norm? This question begs the consideration of whether a norm for the Republican party even exists at this point, as GOP frontrunners Donald Trump and Ted Cruz are both outspoken enemies of the establishment.

Donald Trump won the Tennessee Republican primary resoundingly, but the question remained

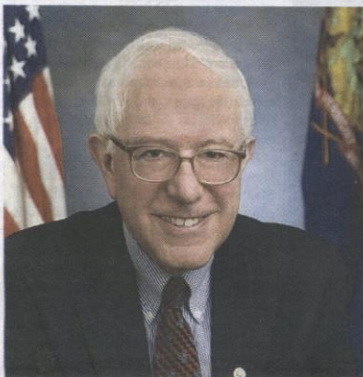
whether he would have any popularity among the educated crowd here at MBA. In order to determine MBA's presidential preferences, The Bell Ringer conducted a poll throughout the whole student body as well as the faculty. It quickly became clear that Donald Trump is, in fact, the most popular candidate of any Republican on The Hill. To the dismay of many progressive students and faculty, many MBA students seem to have conformed to a societal fear of America as we know it and the call for radical change in the way that politics in Washington are conducted. Despite lacking political experience, MBA students generally agreed with the state of Tennessee in supporting Trump as the candidate for the most important job in the United States.

In second place among GOP candidates came Marco Rubio, which was less of a surprise, given MBA's constituency. There are not many evangelicals at MBA compared to the number of people who believe in establishment conservatism as a preferable option to the radical solutions of Ted Cruz, who has come to appeal to the evangelical vote. As if MBA were trying to make a further statement, even John Kasich finished above Ted Cruz in The Bell Ringer's unscientific poll, as the establishment alternative to Marco Rubio also apparently had some major traction among MBA students.

The most significant data gathered from the poll was not on the GOP side, but rather from the Democrats. As exemplified throughout the country, Bernie Sanders has been popular among young voters, as his platform to make college more affordable and to decrease the wealth gap between the middle

and upper classes has appealed to college-age as well as older millennial voters. At MBA, students voted no differently. Hillary Clinton was easily defeated by Bernie Sanders.

Finally, a statistic that MBA students should be wary of is the number of students who may be relying on either their parents or minimally informed friends to help them determine who to support. Before picking fights with other students or heading to vote, do some research, watch some debates, and figure out your personal ideology. Consider how each candidate's policy positions work to either support or impede your ability to reach those ideological endpoints.



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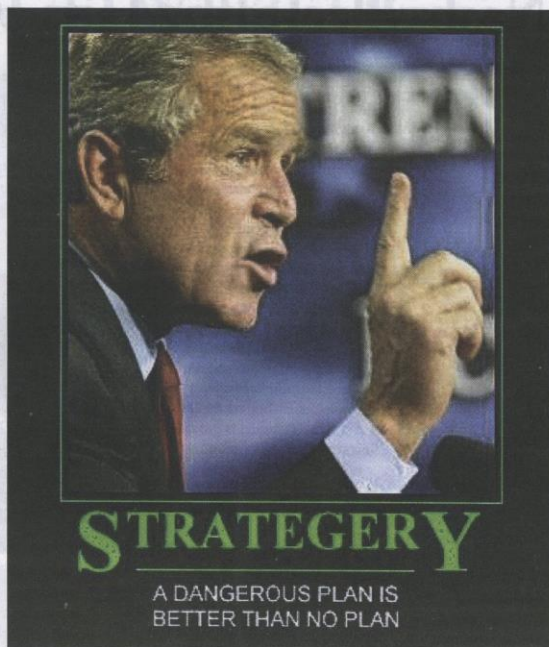
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“There’s an old saying in Tennessee – I know in Texas, probably in Tennessee – that says, fool me once, shame on, shame on you. Fool me, you can’t get fooled again.”

-Dubya

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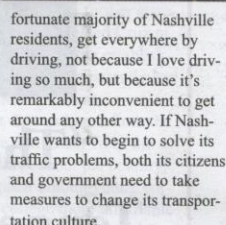
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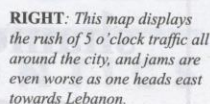
By Werner Bradshaw
Staff Writer

Many folks have begun to draw comparisons between Nashville and Atlanta, some even dubbing Nashville as "the next Atlanta." Atlanta is arguably the most sprawling city in the United States, and, accordingly, Nashville has its fair share of suburban sprawl. Although Atlanta is a more widespread city, it is not growing as fast as Nashville. According to Forbes, Nashville was the 20th fastest-growing city in the US in 2015, growing considerably faster than Atlanta. While this population growth will have an obvious impact on traffic in the Music City, when you consider the growth of surrounding areas, chiefly Murfreesboro, the prospect of future traffic problems becomes much more frightening. Over the past five years,

If you're like me, you've never used public transportation in Nashville, you rarely walk anywhere, and wherever you are going in Nashville, you're probably taking a car to get there. I, like an un-



ABOVE: New residents are moving to Nashville at the average rate of 80 people per day, and this growth is causing massive traffic issues.



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SPECIAL EVENTS

A Voyage Into the World of Ramen

By Mac Roberts
Staff Writer

Over the last several years, an emerging ramen fad has been growing in the neighborhoods of The Gulch and East Nashville. Two leaders have come to the forefront of this scene: Otaku South in the Gulch and Two Ten Jack in East Nashville.

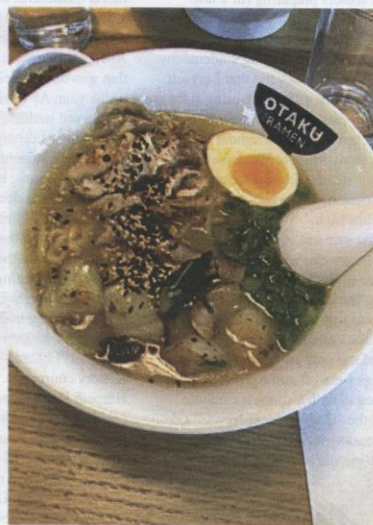
Having read multiple reviews singing the praises of these two eating establishments, and continuing *The Bell Ringer's* year-long tradition of reviewing hot new restaurants in town, I set out for these two spots to taste their renowned ramen dishes. After visiting both settings, I came to realize that there are two universal rules to eating ramen: eat it fast, and SLURP the noodles. On my trips to Otaku South and Two Ten Jack, I put those rules to the test.

Otaku South

From the moment I stepped through Otaku's doors, I felt at peace. The atmosphere is relaxing. The servers are kind — they smile and are always happy to give suggestions and help you understand the menu. You can definitely tell this is a hipster establishment, with the water served in milk jugs, the communal wooden tables, and the location — next to Juice Nashville and Golden Sound coffee shop.

You can also tell that the food at Otaku South is made with incredible care. The hot chicken bun was my first example. It had the perfect mix of heat from the chicken, a solid contrast between the pickle and slaw, and a deliciously light bun imported from Japan. Following my hot chicken bun appetizer, the spice bomb was up, and it consisted of a paste of spices meant to be mixed with the ramen

broth. This Szechuan pepper spice bomb added a great new dimension of spice to the ramen that awaited me. Pairing excellently with the spice bomb was the Paitan ramen, which is a chicken broth variety with curly noodles. This chicken broth was the richest I have ever tasted, and this richness likely resulted from the eight to sixteen hours of meticulous care it takes to craft the noodles. The chefs make sure to crush the chicken bones to extract the marrow flavor, pairing delightfully with the noodles. In tasting the dish, I could tell that the noodles were firm — the way real ramen should be. In conclusion, I can say with certainty that Otaku South is one of, if not the, best ramen restaurants in the Southeast.



CULINARY MASTERPIECES: Both ramen dishes at Otaku South (above) and Two Ten Jack (below) lived up to high expectations.



A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE: Otaku South, with its open seating and lack of long lines, is a solid spot to visit in the middle of the day.

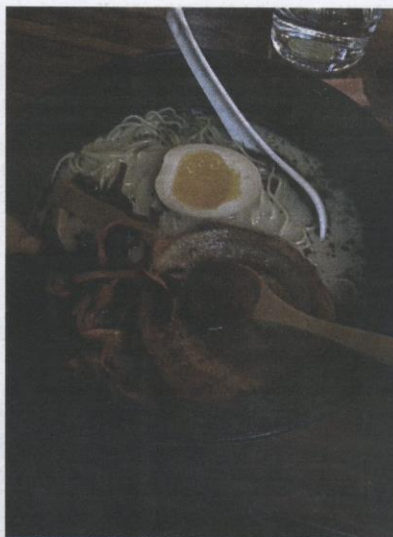
Two Ten Jack

My next stop was the much-renowned Two Ten Jack. Its atmosphere was hectic during my Saturday visit. You could tell that this place was becoming increasingly popular through word of mouth. One difference between Otaku and Two Ten Jack was that TTT makes a point to emphasize its bar and offering of alcoholic beverages much more than Otaku. One can be made to feel like they are in a late-night spot in Tokyo with the drinks, the food, and the funky Japanese cartoons projected on TTT's walls.

The ramen at Two Ten Jack was not exactly its main attraction. There were many other dishes on the menu that caught my eye. The takoyaki, fried "hushpuppies" with octopus meat inside, were more dough than octopus and were both sweet and rich in flavor, served with a salty paste on the side. The tonkotsu ramen dish was a pork broth based dish that measured well with that of Otaku. The spice bomb at Two Ten Jack was a lot spicier than Otaku's, but was still very good and made the dish lively and enjoyable. All in all, I was impressed by TTT's combination of unique interior design and enjoyable menu, and I walked out of the restaurant's doors with renowned appreciation

for the hard work and meticulous attitude required to create a successful ramen establishment.

The conclusion: the ramen at Otaku South was of higher quality. The noodles were firmer and the broth was made with more care than Two Ten Jack's. However, Two Ten Jack offers much more than ramen. If you want the best bowl of ramen in the south, go to Otaku South Ramen. If you want a Japanese bar atmosphere with interesting blends of American and Japanese cuisines, go to Two Ten Jack.





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but to begin my odyssey. Our first stop was Harpeth Hall's library, a brightly lit mix of bookshelves, comfortable chairs, and quiet study rooms. We passed by multiple seniors preparing for a last-period AP Biology test, a reality that I was far too familiar with due to my days in the land of Coach Pruitt. Seeing students my own age studying material that I myself am familiar with was a reassuring sight, and I could easily envision members of my own class planning a similar early morning study session. We departed the library, it became clear to me that the academic motivation in both senior classes runs high.

Our first stop of the day was Keely's Current Issues class, located on the third floor of the Ingram Upper School building. The class consisted of 18 seniors and was taught by Mr. Anthony Springman. I was introduced to the class, explained my purpose for the day's visit, and things were off and rolling. The period began with a short, ten minute video of the "CNN Student News," a daily news program designed to present current events to middle school and high school



students. Topics touched on during the video included the spreading Zika virus, the five-year aftermath of the Fukushima-Dashi nuclear disaster, a recent solar eclipse, and the dangers of flash flooding in the south. At the video's conclusion, Mr. Springman questioned the students as to which topic they found to be the most relevant, and a free-flowing conversation regarding both the safety hazards of the upcoming Summer Olympic Games and the responsibility of the Japanese government to the citizens displaced by nuclear disaster began. I found myself contributing slightly to the discussion, but more often than not, I was simply listening. Nearly every student was awake and conversing, and every interjection or response was simple and well thought-out. No one was vying for Mr. Springman's attention, no opinions were being frowned upon (both liberal and conservative viewpoints were expressed throughout the period), and I found the class to be incredibly engaging.

Harpeth Hall class periods are 80 minutes long, and the first forty minutes or so consisted of this discussion. At the topic reached a stopping point, Mr. Springman displayed a video depicting the story of Brittany Maynard, an American woman diagnosed with terminal brain cancer who moved from California to Oregon in 2014 in order to take advantage of Oregon's Death with Dignity Law, which would allow her to commit suicide by lethal injection. Her story has drawn a widespread response from the American public, with many both applauding and

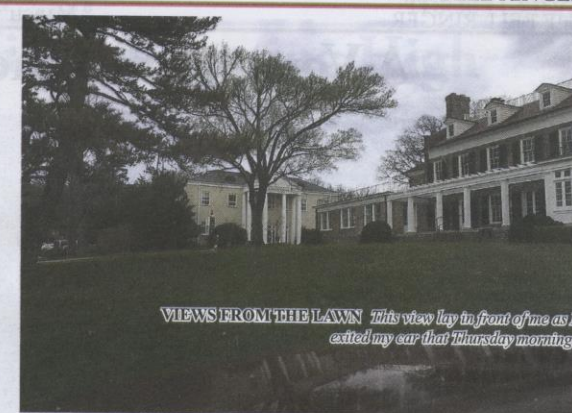
chastising her decision to end her own life. Mr. Springman thus directed the class into a discussion of one's ability to "peacefully" end their own life, and the moral quandaries that accompany such a decision. I found this discussion to be riveting, and I exited the class at 9:25 AM, multiple students informed me that that was one of their strongest discussions of the year. As I exited the classroom, I observed multiple "guidelines" lining the ceiling of the room, most of which encouraged students to develop their own original opinions, learn how to behave in an organized debate, and variations on the theme of thinking in a creative manner. I found these guidelines to be quite relevant to the class at hand, and it was very interesting to be able to observe the lessons taught by these guidelines firsthand in the in-class debate.

My next stop was just across the hall in Dr. Art Echerd's AP Modern European History course. Dr. Echerd is a sort of Harpeth Hall legend, known for his encyclopedic knowledge of nearly every subject and his nearly perfect attendance of all Harpeth Hall extracurricular events.

I had met and interacted with Dr. Echerd at Harpeth Hall basketball games in the past, and hold a deep respect for him as an educator and friend to the students. Needless to say, his class did not disappoint. The class consisted of fifteen seniors furiously taking notes both by hand and on computers, and the discussion almost never halted. From nearly the moment following my entry, Dr. Echerd was listing facts and tales from the era of

Napoleon Bonaparte, and I found myself both engaged and amazed by the man's never-ending flow of historical anecdotes. The students in Dr. Echerd's class are constantly checking facts online and tying more information into the discussion, causing the room to feel like some sort of historical cave filled with knowledge on Napoleon-era France. Having taught at Harpeth Hall since 1986, Dr. Echerd clearly knows how to keep his students engaged throughout the eighty-minute period, frequently stopping for questions or asking the students to respond. This engagement answered a key question for me, as I have often wondered if Harpeth Hall classes were just eighty straight minutes of lecturing, or were students incorporated into the discussion. The behavior of both Dr. Echerd and teachers observed later in the day provided a satisfactory answer to my inquiry.

Following an eighty minute voyage into the mind of Art Echerd, we were given a short break period, which was spent interacting with several friends of mine (shout out to phbpwrs, chicktendies101, and cori_in_the_house). Following that break, my next class was AP English Language, taught by Ms. Croker. This class is taught Harkness style, meaning that the girls sit in a circle of desks all facing inward. The period began with Ms. Croker and I discussing the differences between my AP English Literature course and the Language course she currently teaches. We noted that the Literature course engages in much more in-class reading, but that Language also writes



VIEWS FROM THE LAWN This view lay in front of me as I exited my car that Thursday morning.

papers on a wider variety of subjects. The first half of the period was spent discussing the theses for the papers the students are currently writing. The topics are all related in some way to the food industry, with themes ranging from the effectiveness of food stamps to regulation in the world of dietary supplements. With everyone's ideas laid out in front of them, we then began peer-editing other's papers, which continued up until the end of the period. One notary item that was passed out to all students was a specific guideline for peer-editing, a piece of paper that continued various rhetorical questions for students to ask themselves during the process. As the class went on, I found myself enjoying the Harkness style more and more, and I definitely believe that various upper-level classes at MBA would enjoy it.

Lunch was next on the docket, and I was definitely in for a culture shock. Harpeth Hall's lunch offerings were solid, and I found myself jealous of their possession of a soft-serve machine, but their lunch period is a tad bit chaotic. All food is served in one small space, and there's a sort of ballet that goes on between the serving lines. Coming from the spacious confines of the MBA serving area, I had to get used to this process, but in the end, my food emerged just the same. I enjoyed a meal of beef and rice, chicken tortilla soup, cranberry juice, and salted caramel ice cream. Following this meal, I found myself being led towards what would prove to be the most unique event of the day: a Harpeth Hall pep rally.

Picture this. An entire gymnasium sectioned into four different colors: green, blue, yellow, and red. Every girl wears a different color and is placed in a specific spot in the bleachers. Seniors stand in the corners bearing flags and leading chants. This image lay in front of me as I stepped in the Harpeth Hall gymnasium, and I must admit I was quite taken aback. Quickly though, I began to understand the format of this pep rally. The senior pep club president called the gym to attention, and everyone left the bleachers and began to arrange themselves in order of height, then in order of birth date. It was unusual, but entertaining. Finally, a photographer ran around to each different-colored crowd and took their picture. I learned afterwards that I was the first male in school history to be featured in a club photo. Quite the recognition!

Following the spectacle of a pep rally, I was led to my fourth and final class, AP

Calculus AB. Now, as a current regulars Statistics student, the world of AP Calculus was quite over my head, and the course's teacher, Ms. Polly Linden, knew that very well. However, she "took mercy on me," and made sure to explain the concepts to my confused mind. She was focused in class, demonstrating multiple practice problems and consistently reminding the students of small tricks that were likely to lie in the text of the AP exam. As the class went on, we discussed how the added time of Harpeth Hall's class periods makes math a more interactive subject, as teachers are given ample time to demonstrate problems and answer individual questions. Ms. Linden explained to me that in the past, she had taught fifty-minute periods, and found that while she always had enough time to lecture and give notes, her class was often cut short before she could really demonstrate different scenarios for the concept she was explaining. At Harpeth Hall, eighty minutes is more than enough time to give an in-depth explanation of a specific Calculus lesson. I found her insight to be interesting, and our conversation regarding the differences in schedule was one of the highlights of my day.

As interesting and interactive of a day as I was having, all good things must come to an end. Before I knew it, it was 3:10 and I was heading back to my car, feeling enlightened. Harpeth Hall is a unique learning institution, filled with both similarities and dissimilarities to my home at MBA. Harpeth Hall's teachers and students work extremely well together and know how to make productive use of their class time. All in all, I emerged from my time in Honeybear Nation now cognizant of the fact that class periods at Harpeth Hall are not simply eighty minutes of straight lecturing, with little to no class interaction, but rather, are filled with students who engage in a mutual relationship with their instructors, ready to learn and eager to participate.

While some students here on the Hill may still chastise Harpeth Hall for being a "daycare," I am able to write to you today, with first-hand experience, that the land of green and honey on Hobbs Road is much more than meets the eye.

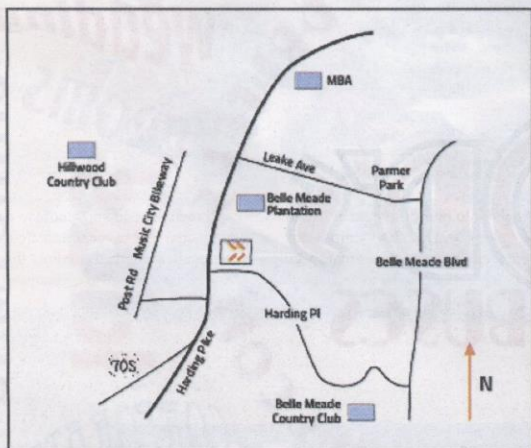
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Big Red Signees

On Wednesday February 3rd, five MBA athletes signed Letters of Intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level this fall



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Vanderbilt Baseball Looks to Continue Success

By Ben Coulthard
Sports Editor

It is never easy to finish second place. The Vanderbilt Commodores baseball team understands this fact all too well. As the runner-up to the Virginia Cavaliers in the 2015 College World Series, Vanderbilt is faced with the current stigma that this year is a one of "rebuilding." And that is an easy label to peg on this team. The Commodores lost two of their weekend starters in Walker Buehler (Dodgers) and Carson Fulmer (White Sox), their star shortstop, and number one overall, Dansby Swanson (Diamondbacks, now with Braves), first baseman Zander Wiel, and right field Rhett Wiseman to the MLB Draft. Clearly, the 2015-16 squad will look vastly different than last year's runner-up team. But don't expect Coach Tim Corbin to hang his head low. Rather than wallow in the loss of so many solid players, the Commodores have instead decided to view the 2015-16 season as a "reloading" year.

With a #1-rated recruiting class getting acclimated to the Vanderbilt system and several key players returning to the squad, the team has begun this season with a 12-1 record, with their only loss coming to a competitive Stanford team. Already the Commodores have shown no signs of stopping their already-dominant run. Many critics have changed their view on how the season will end up for Vanderbilt, as the team is currently ranked in the top 5 of all major college baseball polls. Many also predict that the Commodores will return to Omaha for a third straight season. However,

the key for the Commodores to return to the great state of Nebraska will be utilizing the plethora of arms they have in their pitching staff, while finding some new bats to fill old holes in the lineup.

Pitching

As of right now, the weekend rotation appears to be Jordan Sheffield (redshirt sophomore), Ben Bowden (junior), and

also complements his speed with an above-average curveball. Bowden, coming from Lynn, MA, has been the most improved member on the Commodore staff so far. This past summer, Bowden was named the Most Valuable Pitcher in the Cape Cod League, giving up only 5 hits and no runs in 13 innings of regular season play. He's already 3-0 so far this year. Kyle Wright



Kyle Wright (sophomore). Even though Sheffield was faced with Tommy John surgery just two seasons ago and Wright has been recovering from a minor injury, the pair combined with Bowden will cause hitting problems for the opposing team throughout this season. Sheffield, who is a product of Tullahoma, TN, has thrown a fastball ranging between 94-98 MPH, and

emerged last season as the closer for a time, but has now transferred to the starting rotation. He hasn't pitched much this year due to injury, but will continue to compete to get better once healthy. Wright has demonstrated that he can confuse hitters with pitches from multiple angles. In the bullpen, I believe Matt Ruppenthal and Hayden Stone will be the X-factors to a deep tourna-

ment run for the Commodores. Ruppenthal hasn't allowed a run so far in the season, and Stone has rehabbed after Tommy John to return and throw major innings for the Commodores. Both men are competitors, and will bring their competitive edge to win games for Vanderbilt.

Hitting

Jeren Kendall has been the shining star in the Commodore lineup so far, hitting .451 with 3 HR and 18 RBI, but he has also helped from fellow outfielder Bryan Reynolds, freshmen Alonzo Jones and Walker Grisanti, and MBA's own Penn Murfee. Reynolds sits right behind Kendall in batting average with a blazing .362 average. Grisanti has played in many pinch-hitting situations so far, making the most of his at-bats. He's hitting .625 with a slugging percentage of 1.125. He has 5 RBIs in his 8 at-bats, getting the job done when his number is called. Jones has reached base almost 1 in every 3 of his at-bats, but his speed is what sets him apart from the rest. He's 4-4 in stolen bases, having run a 6.17 60 yard dash in high school. Look for him to score almost any time he gets on base. Penn has had a season similar to Grisanti so far, having multiple pinch-hit opportunities, but making the most of his opportunities. Penn's hitting .471 with 4 RBIs, all in clutch situations, giving the Commodores leads in the few tight games they've had so far.

While these players have been the brightest parts of the Commodore lineup, all of the team has been focused and playing at a high level, as they lead the NCAA in runs scored. If they continue to hit the ball this well, no one will be able to stop them.

Lacrosse Sets Tone with Blazing Start

By Joseph Spear
Staff Writer

The MBA lacrosse team is looking to continue its success while developing its younger talent as the season gets underway. The team started the season hot, with clutch wins over teams such as Trinity and McCallie, the defending state champions. In both contests, the Big Red was able to hang on and deliver early season victories. Coach Garvey and his coaching staff look to replace senior leadership with current seniors, juniors, and even sophomores as the team tries to create its identity for the season ahead. The Bell Ringer sat down with Coach Matt

Garvey and discussed his plans for this spring season.

Bell Ringer: What is your outlook for the season?

Matt Garvey: We are returning a lot of guys, coming off of a 13-6 record last year. We lost in the state semifinals to the eventual champion. We have high expectations, but we have to perform. Expectations mean nothing. Four of our top five scorers are coming back, and we have some young scorers who will make a big impact this season, including the Pollock brothers, Graves brothers, and Jacob Kovick. David Wise is returning in goal as a third year starter, defensive

players Gabe Mendoza and Jackson Siktberg look to lead as well, and Peter Briggs will have a strong season at midfield.

BR: How will you be filling any positions left by departed seniors?

MG: Jackson Siktberg will fill Stephen Ray's position. Jim Garrett will play. Jack Hayles and Addison Smith will play key roles as well. However, we lost our leading scorer in Austin Rolfe, so we will see how our forwards are able to step up this season.

BR: What does the rest of the league look like? Biggest rival?

MG: McCallie is certainly the favorite, and MUS is always good. Christian Brothers will have a good year, Ravenwood will play well, and Father Ryan will shape up to be a formidable opponent at well.

BR: Does the team have any particular strengths and weaknesses?

MG: We are returning a lot of guys, so we want to play fast and uptempo. Make a safe turnover, look for big transition plays, play aggressive defense. In terms of weakness, expectations can lead to egos, pressure, "me" ball instead of "we" ball. We have to play as a team.



Soccer Prepares to Defend Title

By Collin Ragsdale
Staff Writer

This past year marked a historic turn for the MBA soccer program. In a thrilling match against Christian Brothers High School, the Big Red brought home the first DIIAA soccer state championship in the school's history. The strong sense of senior leadership anchored the squad, and players like Andrew Conwell, Mac Mackey, Parks Ball, Davis Luster were absolutely vital in securing a state title. Those those boys have come and gone, but fortunately, seniors Chase Meluch, Zac Jernigan, Will Emerson, Wes Richardson, and

Christian Williams have stepped up to fill the gaps left by the Class of 2015.

When reflecting on the current status of the squad, Coach Cheevers stated, "We have a different angle of leadership this year. So far, the holes in the roster have been filled, and the team's chemistry grows every week."

This "different angle of leadership" is evident in the personality of the team. Although it is a less physical and less vocal squad than those of recent years, "They have some solid technical ability," Coach Cheevers notes. Players such as Ellis Moore and Alex Bulgarino provide a unique style of play, quick and nimble midfielders who can open up space for themselves

and subsequently look upfield to pass around the opposing team. With players such as Bulgarino and Moore manning the middle, you can expect a much greater time of possession which, when applied efficiently, means more goals for attackers such as Luke Bernatavitz.

On the other side of the ball, the defense is led by a strong core of seniors. With Yale commit Will Emerson at the head of this unit, the defense plays with a smart and focused attitude, especially when it comes to set pieces. In goal, Zac Jernigan communicates with his defenders extremely well, and looks to earn as many clean sheets as possible.

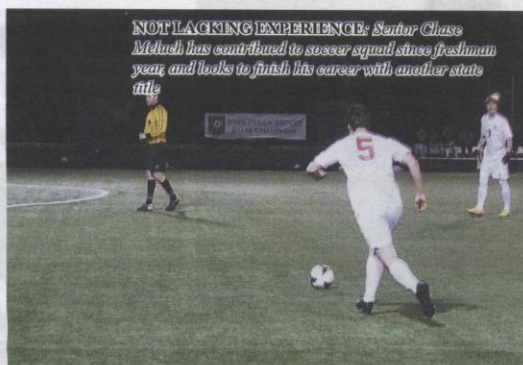
In the season ahead, Division II AA looks to be one of the strongest soccer divisions in the state (the exceptions being BA and Ensworth). Coach Cheevers expects the hardest game of the season to be against Father Ryan, due to the 4-0 shellacking MBA laid upon the Irish last year.



CHEEVERS: AWESTRUCK

This year, the Big Red will travel to Ryan for an intense away game. The players hope for a strong showing from the Big Red Club for this imperative game.

Although this team is young, everyone in the program believes that the team has a very good chance to both become back to back State Champions and take its tradition of success into the future.



NOT LACKING EXPERIENCE: Senior Chase Meluch has contributed to soccer squad since freshman year and looks to finish his career with another state title.

Baseball Strives to Utilize Young Talent

By William Bradford
Staff Writer

The MBA baseball team is looking to bounce back this season with a strong showing in conference play as well as in the playoffs. With quite a few starting spots open due to the graduation of a number of key senior contributors, Coach Anderson and the rest of the coaching staff are looking to some younger players to have a major impact this season. *The Bell Ringer* sat down with Coach Anderson to get the inside scoop on the team as the squad looks forward to the season ahead.

Bell Ringer: What is your outlook for this season?

Mike Anderson: I think we're going to be young in experience. We have to replace everyone except for two positions. Also, we have three key injuries, which will hurt us early on. Will Allen, David Gaw, and Brett Star are all out for now.

BR: Who will be playing which position?
MA: Sam Rhodes is at third, Sam Morris is our catcher, Cole Cross is playing first, Carter Lovvorn is at centerfield, Winston Hewitt is in left field, Jed Griffin is at shortstop, and other positions are up for grabs.

BR: How are you planning to fill the holes left by departing seniors?
MA: We've got some great young guys.

We're going to put them in the open positions and see how it works out.

BR: Any teams to watch out for? Rivals?

MA: BA and JPil are definitely two very important games, especially since BA is one of our first games. It falls on the first week of the season.

BR: Recommended games to watch?

MA: Everyone should come out to the series against Ensworth as well as the series against Father Ryan. These will be great games, seeing as both teams are rivals, and there will be some great competition.

BR: What are some strengths of the team that you are looking forward to seeing in

action?

MA: The team is very strong pitching-wise. We have lots of guys with great arms but not lots of experience, which is something we'll be focusing on in practice.

BR: How about some weaknesses you could improve on?

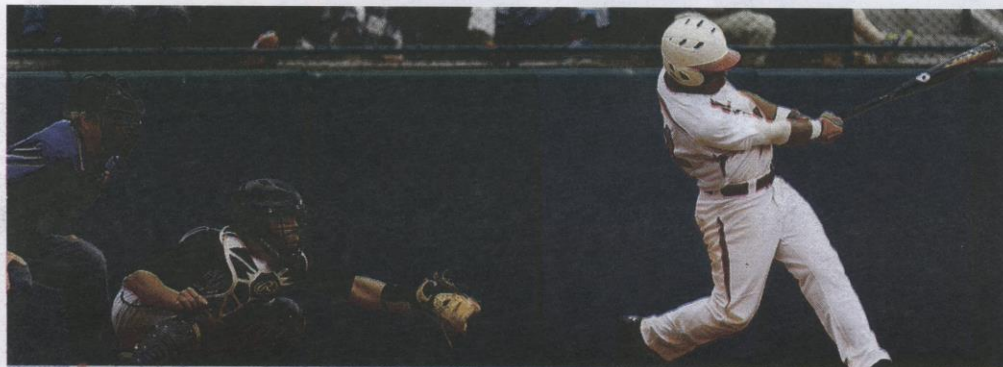
MA: Hitting. Last year, hitting was one of the team's vulnerabilities. We're going to devote lots of time in practice to it now and in the coming weeks.

BR: How are injuries affecting the team?

MA: Injuries are hurting us pretty badly. All three of those who are out, Will Allen, David Gaw, and Brett Star, are key players who would've been starters.

BR: How will MBA compete with the rest of the league overall?

MA: I think MBA will be very competitive, more so than the rest of the league thinks. I like these guys; they work hard and are hungry to succeed. I'm looking forward to a great season overall.



Deadpool Impresses with Creativity

By Hamilton Garber
Lover of Marvel

It is safe to say that Marvel fans all around the world remember *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*. The film marked the first time that we saw Ryan Reynolds assume the role of Deadpool, and to many fans, he was a letdown. Who in the studio thought that it was a good idea to seal the mouth of Reynolds? Since then, *Deadpool* fans have waited for the role to be given serious attention.

Now seven years later, Ryan Reynolds is back at it again, and he perfectly portrays the role so beloved by comic book fans.

In terms of plot, *Deadpool* manages to be a successful comedy, superhero, action, and, surprisingly, romantic movie all at once. The main story arc revolves around Wade Wilson, a mercenary diagnosed with an inoperable cancer that leads him to get involved in sketchy experimental treatment. Following the treatment, Wilson receives a series of abilities, such as a godlike healing capability and immunity to all physical harm. The only drawback is that his outer appearance is rather grotesque. The plot unfolds as Wilson (now known as Deadpool) searches for the man who transformed him into his ghastly appearance.

From the very opening credits (masterfully done), the viewer sees this movie is going to be a perfect mix of well-paced storytelling, thrilling action sequences, and that classic, self-aware sarcasm that all *Deadpool* fans love until the closing credits (stay to watch those).

Ryan Reynolds is the perfect choice for *Deadpool*. He is often criticized as mere eye candy with little talent. What better way to prove his acting chops than to become hideously disfigured and in a mask? His dialogue is superbly written,

and he is an excellent smack-talk. Even in intense and emotional sequences, Reynolds delivers his lines with such force that we actively empathize with him. Reynolds gives a truly commendable performance.

The supporting cast, however, almost steals the show. From *Deadpool*'s foil character, Colossus, a Russian hunk of metal, to the angst machine Megasonic Teenage Warhead, a moody teenage girl who happens to have explosive powers, the roles are perfectly cast. Each actor is able to bring his or her own specific type

of humor to the table. Some of the best scenes in the movie revolve around the supporting cast, and they make for an all-around entertaining spectacle.

All together, *Deadpool* is a sarcastic masterpiece. While falling into sophomore humor at times, the movie manages to pull itself out with clever fourth-wall-breaks and good storytelling. I would recommend this movie to anyone who is not easily offended and does not mind violence and gore. It has an R-rating, which it very well deserves, so viewer

beware. If you have not seen this movie yet, you are doing yourself a disservice.

See it, maybe see it again, and maybe even buy it later on DVD.



Gods of Egypt Astounds in Awfulness

By Hamilton Garber
Can't Believe He Saw this Movie

I had to brace myself before entering the theater to see *Gods of Egypt*. Having seen the horrendous trailer and the movie's "12% Rotten" score on Rotten Tomatoes, I knew that this movie would likely fall flat on its face in front of I. But as any naive teenager would, after bought my ticket, I repeated the phrase "low expectations, high hopes" to myself.

Needless to say, my hopes were quickly removed. Long story short, this movie is horrendous. Do not waste your money on it. I even saw it in 3D, which actually made it worse. About five minutes in, I began to feel a headache from the constant onscreen movement.

For those of you who are either masochistic or do not value my opinion, I will try to keep this review relatively spoiler-free. First and foremost, the most noticeable aspect of this film is its CGI. It is everywhere. I can understand the use of CGI for building impressive set pieces of Egypt and for pulling off the action scenes that would otherwise be impossible, is it really necessary to make random and unnecessary

CGI plants and scorpions? With such a high budget for *Gods of Egypt*, it would seem that such messy CGI images would not have to be so prevalent.

The movie has a decent cast, with Gerard Butler (Leonidas from 300) playing the main villain, Set, and Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (Jaime Lannister from *Game of Thrones*) playing the protagonist, Horus. Also cast were rookies Brenton Thwaites and Courtney Eaton playing the mortal protagonists Bek and Zaya. One oddly noticeable casting feature was that the Egyptian roles were played by mainly British actors. Although none of the central cast did an outright terrible job, their characters were flat and non-relatable. No one actor

went the extra mile to showcase his or her talent; they are seemed to "mail in" their performances. Perhaps this was due to bad directing or the even worse writing- we may never know. Most of each character's crucial lines were either exposition dumps to hold the weak story together, or zingy one-liners that fail to entertain and just seem awkward. Further, most of the female cast plays little role in the plotline, and females seem only to be cast for sex appeal. That's not okay. I was left with the feeling that the director got overzealous and dumped all of his money into the CGI, then afterwards realized he had no plot or script.

Speaking of the plot, the movie is set in Ancient Egypt, in a time when the Egyptian

Pantheon walked the earth with the mortals they created. Feeling estranged by his father Ra, the unfavored son Set stages a coup against the current King of Egypt, Osiris. The story also tells the tale of Osiris's son, Horus, and a mortal's journey to regain the throne from the oppressive Set. If this plotline sounds the least bit interesting, just know that it is horribly cliché, terribly paced, and actually quite tedious. Despite all of the glamor and "exciting" fight scenes, I nearly fell asleep twice during the movie. Even worse is how the producers use the hackneyed trope where the protagonist loses the ability to perform a key action, only to find that he could do it all along during the final fight. I questioned my sanity throughout the entire two-hour runtime as I struggled to keep up with the convoluted storyline.

There is absolutely no reason to waste your time or your money on this film. Even the usher at the theater looked at me strangely when I handed him the tickets. This movie fails to even cross the "so bad it's good" threshold. Trust me, I have already wasted my time and money on this one, so you don't have to.



To Pimp A Butterfly Still Resonates a Year after Release

By Thomas Daniels
Staff Writer

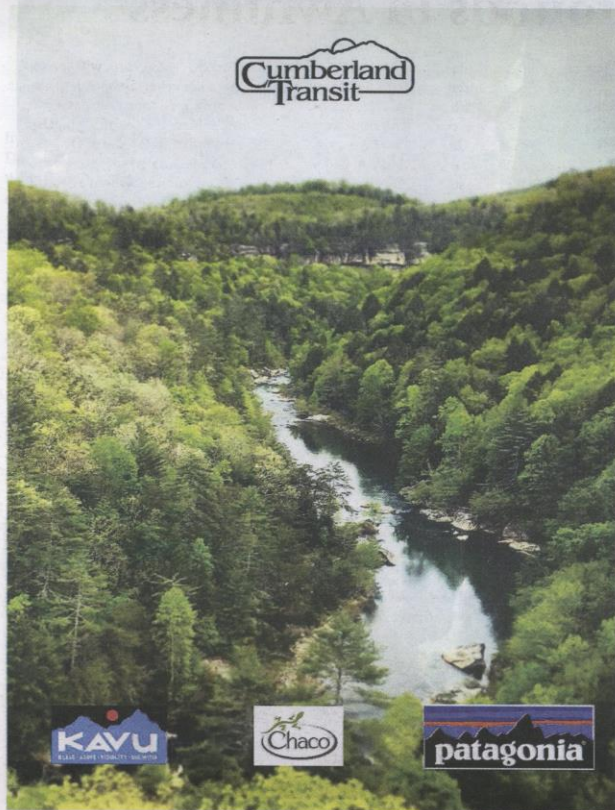
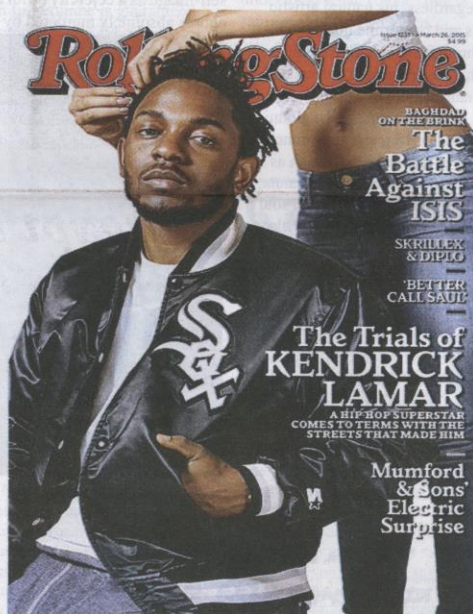
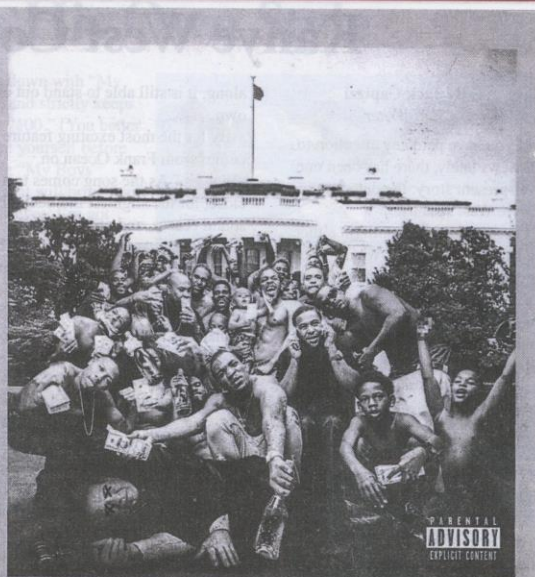
All the way back in October of 2012, rap and hip-hop fans were presented with the first album from the artist Kendrick Lamar, *good kid, m.A.A.d. city*. The album's catchy tunes, beautiful wordplay and lyricism, great production (that's beats, for the confused), appearances from household names, and the delicately-woven story won over many, earning it nods for Album of the Year and pushing Lamar into the upper echelon of rap.

Fast-forward three years to March 15, 2015. After much fanfare leading up to the release, Lamar presented his sophomore work, *To Pimp a Butterfly*. The album garnered much critical acclaim, and now, a year following the tape's release, *The Bell Ringer* takes an in-depth look at what many consider to be Kendrick's finest work.

From the album's beginning, one can easily tell that this album was not on the same frequency as his freshman debut: instead of banging, bass-heavy beats that call back mid-1990s rappers such as Tupac, Dr. Dre (who executively produced said work), and Rakim, Kendrick presents listeners with samples of very soulful jazz and funk from the mid-1970s, such as The Isley Brothers and The Temptations. He mixes these influences in with his version of modern-day rap. Lamar has a heavy usage of brass and saxophone in his album, giving a groove feel to its workings.

Singles such as "King Kunta," "Alright," and "I" are perfect examples of this blend of sounds rarely touched by other artists. However, the production is only half of the album; Lamar's lyricism on this album has also taken a turn. His wordplay through metaphors and previous experiences highlight the themes of his music and add to the replayability of the songs (not "Hotline Bling" replayability, the good kind). In "For Free?," Lamar incorporates a quick flow in his comparisons of the character's lack of wealth to the needs of emancipated African-Americans in the 1870s. He can utilize slow, methodical rhythm as well: "How Much a Dollar Cost" has Lamar rapping, near preaching a sermon, to listeners regarding his story of a homeless man and Lamar.

I won't go into detail with the themes of the album, which range from poverty, oppression, temptation, suicidal tendencies, and violence to self-respect, freedom, love, and equality. Doing so would incite debate on philosophical matters, which I don't have the room to discuss. Musically, this album is a step away from conventional norms of rap, yet still finds its roots and grows into arguably the best music I've heard in a long time. Lamar has easily followed up his first album, showing that he's got a lot of musical genius left in him. There are parts where the album becomes dull and a bit preachy, but the singles and hidden gems more than make up for it.



Kanye West Confuses and Amazes

By Jack Capizzi
Staff Writer

If you have paid any attention to the news lately, there has been one ever-present story: the deterioration of Kanye West's sanity.

Constantly in the spotlight either on stage or on Twitter, where he is known to tweet at billionaire Mark Zuckerberg asking him to "finance" his ideas, Kanye has made it a habit to draw attention to his outrageous escapades outside of the recording studio—which is where, ironically, he first earned his coveted fame.

But let's give Kanye credit. His recently released album, *The Life of Pablo*, is the perfect piece to redirect the public's focus to his main craft. The title is an allusion to the lives of artist Pablo Picasso and drug lord Pablo Escobar. While Kanye may be convinced that he is a mix of those two Pablos, I'm not so sure. Regardless, his natural artistic prowess and borderline insanity still come through enough to make this album his best project in a decade.

The main feature of *TLOP* is, in fact, its musical features. The album holds a total of 18 guest appearances, from proven hip-hop artists such as Kendrick Lamar, Kid Cudi, Rihanna, Andre 300, and Chris Brown, to soul singers Kelley Price and The Weeknd, to up and comers like Desiigner (sic) and of course the phenomenal Chance the Rapper.

Instead of diluting the content, the huge number of guest features ballasts Kanye's lyrics and beats. Most guest artists sing in the chorus of the song, with only a few singers being granted individual verses. So when a featured verse such as Kendrick Lamar's from "No More Parties in LA" comes

along, it is still able to stand out on its own.

By far the most exciting feature comes from Frank Ocean on "Wolves." As the song comes to a close, for the slightest moment all sound ceases, and only a slightly altered beat can be heard, from which Ocean's voice emerges. This feature is made all the more interesting by the fact that the artist has been absent from most all music production for the past three years. Many fans have spent their days wondering where Frank Ocean is, if he is alive, and if he can still sing. "Wolves" signals that Frank is very much alive, and has still got it.

The album's content is unique in that it is made up by a multitude of individual, two to three minute songs. Highlights include "Ultralight Beam," a gospel-inspired track that houses a fantastic verse by Chance the Rapper, "FML," a track that details Kanye's self-image as a celebrity (with a chorus absolutely murdered by The

Weeknd), and "No More Parties in LA," featuring one of the best dual verses on the album from Kanye and Kendrick Lamar. Each of these highlights has an impact because of its subject matter as well as the quality of its delivery.

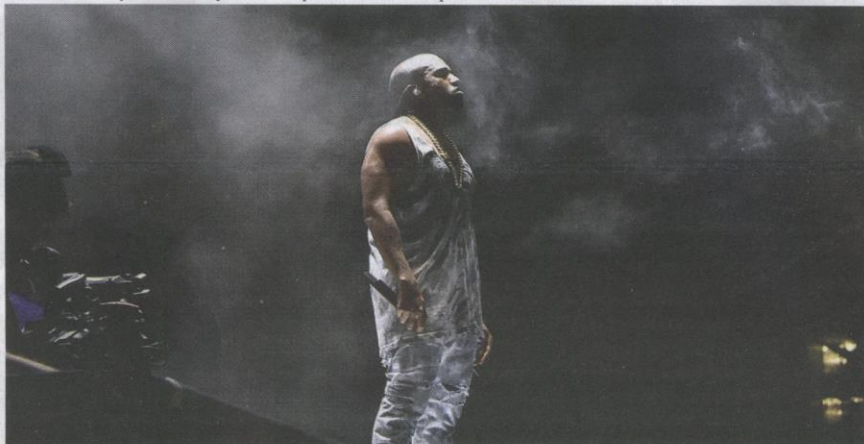
The tracks that fall short contain a rather poor delivery or lyrics that feel odd and out of place. "30 hours" contains just Kanye rambling in incomprehensible sentences, at times barely audibly. In "Feedback," he confusingly attempts to describe his genius in under two minutes.

While the album has received a significant amount of criticism based on Kanye West's personal activities outside of music, the actual content of the album proves far superior to anyone's expectations, and the album's statement has been greatly welcomed and received.

On the Hill, the general view on Kanye and *The Life of Pablo* has been positive. Fellow sophomore Bradford

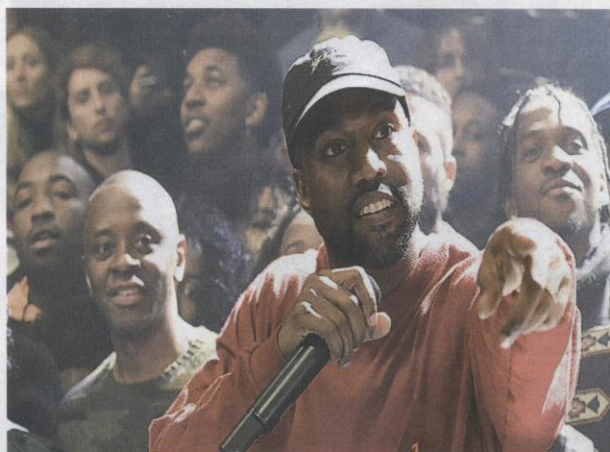
Holladay said of the album, "Despite the widely negative reviews, I personally thought *TLOP* was another great work by Kanye. The beats were catchy and original, and the featured artists had some great verses. Kanye's lyrics could have been a lot stronger, but all in all, I really enjoyed the album."

The general consensus on the rapper is that while he may be past his peak, he is still producing some of the best material in hip-hop. Regardless of what you may think of Kanye West, give his new album a listen and I am sure that you will come out with a different perspective on the egotistical genius that is, simply, Kanye.



The Life of Pablo

- 1 NITA OHN ULTRA LIGHT BEAMS
- 2 FATHER STRETCH MY HANDS Pt.1
- 3 Pt.2
- 4 FAMOUS
- 5 FEEDBACK
- 6 LOW LIGHTS
- 7 HIGH LIGHTS
- 8 FREESTYLE 4
- 9 I MESS THE OLD KANYE
- 10 FML
- 11 REAL FRIENDS
- 12 WOLVES
- 13 SILVER SHAPER INTERMISSION
- 14 30 HOURS
- 15 NO MORE PARTIES IN LA
- 16 FNOTS CHARLIE HEAT VERSION
- 17 FADE



Young Thug Creates His Own Style

By Patrick Dennis
Staff Writer

In a month that saw album releases from the likes of Kanye West, Future, and Wiz Khalifa, you may think that a mixtape from Young Thug just wouldn't get a lot of attention. But you would be wrong. Young Thug's recently released mixtape, *I'm Up*, racked up over a million downloads on the music-sharing site DatPiff in the month of February alone, and those numbers are only growing.

Records like "Best Friend" and "Check" bring classic Young Vibes and feature refreshing verses from the

likes of Migos members Quavo and Offset and Chicago rapper Lil Durk. The mixtape also brings the heat with production from Metro Boomin, Mike WiLL Made-It and others.

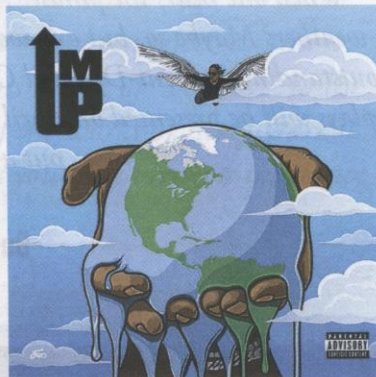
I'm Up begins with what is probably the best record on the album, "F Cancer," a song in honor of Lil Boosie who was diagnosed with kidney cancer back in 2015 (pray for Boosie). "F Cancer" is typical Young Thug: fast paced with ridiculous hard trap beat backed up by resonating Thugger verses.

After "F Cancer," we are hit with a record that will undoubtedly put you "in the feels." Thugga slows

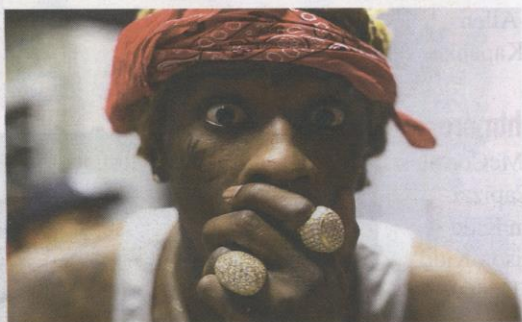
things down with "My Boys" and strictly keeps things "100." (You better prepare yourself before playing "My Boys" because it will bring tears to your eyes. I'm not kidding.)

Once you have collected yourself, "For My People" comes next: a record with a refreshing Latin taste. If Thugga were to rhyme over a Shakira song, it would sound like "For My People." It's not going to win a Grammy, but it's an upbeat song that is a good recovery from the emotional rollercoaster of "My Boys."

The final song to note on *I'm Up* has to be "Bread Winners"—probably one of the hardest songs that I have ever heard. Bumping "Bread Winners" in the car at full volume is guaranteed to make you feel like John Gotti, at least for a second. The production from the Atlanta-based "808 Mafia" is ridiculous, and truly adds an Southeastern vibe to the mixtape. *I'm Up* is an absolutely solid



release. Young Thug features a lot of new sounds while keeping his classic style intact. The only downside to *I'm Up* is that it seems to lack a central theme and really just sounds like a collection of different records. Also, there are times when you can't understand what Young Thug is saying...but that's a given.



Catching Up with the College Kids

By Alex Bulgarino
Staff Writer

The Bell Ringer sat down with college freshman and Class of 2015 graduates Davis Luster and Jackson Garey to get their take on the transition from high school to college.

Jackson Garey, freshman at Michigan

BR: How are your college classes different from your high school classes?

JG: For the most part, I have been in classes that are very similar. Six to eight classes I have taken have all been under 18 people. I have only had two big lectures, and those have smaller breakout sessions to accompany them as well. The biggest difference, other than the girls, is that you really have to make an effort to have a relationship with your teacher. It is

easy to have a relationship with a teacher at MBA when you have a guy like Mr. Kelly always asking about your weekend. Most teachers in college do not go out of the way to form a relationship.

BR: Which skills have been most important at your college?

JG: The ability to write an essay well has been the most important skill so far. I had Mr. Morrison for two years of high school English, and almost every weekend we had to write some sort of essay. This repetitive practice has really helped me, because in almost every class I have taken, including statistics, I have had to write an essay. Also the time management that you learn at MBA is very helpful. You have much more free time in college and if you

BR: Is there a teacher, coach, or adviser from MBA that stands out as having the greatest positive impact on your high school years?

JG: Coach Klausner had the biggest impact on me. It means a lot when you have someone on your side always fighting for you. Coach K did so much for me in high school and still continues to have an impact in my life now.



BR: What part of MBA do you miss most?

JG: I miss the community the most. I really took it for granted while I was there. At MBA there is always someone willing to help you. You know all the guys and can count on them. There really is no other place like it.

Davis Luster, freshman at SMU

BR: Did MBA's academics prepare you appropriately for your courses?

DL: Definitely. The rigor of MBA's curriculum definitely prepared me well for college classes. The time and effort required to make good grades at MBA definitely carries over into college.

BR: How are your college classes different from your high school classes?

DL: Most classes do not have as much written homework as in high school. However, this requires that you do more individual, unforced preparation to keep up. Though I prefer the traditional schedule that MBA has, college class schedules follow more of the rotating block format.

BR: Which skills have been most important at your college?

DL: I'd have to say my time management skills. Especially during the first semester, you have to not only concentrate on doing your best in the classroom

first, but also save time for meeting new people and participating in extracurricular activities.

BR: Is there a teacher, coach, or advisor from MBA that stands out as having the greatest positive impact on your high school years?

DL: Since MBA is filled with many great influences, I have to name more than just one. First of all, Coach Euverard taught me the importance of having confidence and heart in all walks of life. Coach Cheevers made me realize that putting emphasis on taking care of the little things will allow you to excel in anything you do. Dr. Tarkington taught me how to write essays effectively and analyze literature closely. And I can't forget Coach Klausner for being a great example to everyone of the effect of maintaining a caring, upbeat attitude every day.

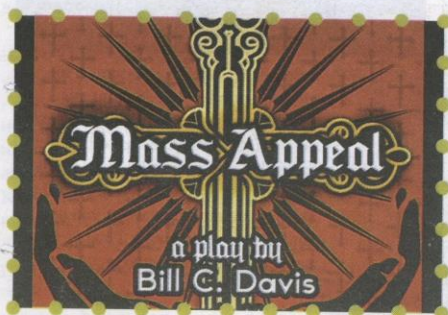


2016 Student-Directed One-Acts

When one hears the phrase "April on the Hill," what comes to mind? Prom? Endada? Sunny weather? Maybe so, but one would be remiss to not associate the great month of April with some outstanding Student-Directed One-Acts. In this installment of a longstanding tradition, five short plays will be presented on April 27, 28, and 30. The Bell Ringer encourages all students to come out and support the MBA Theater Program.

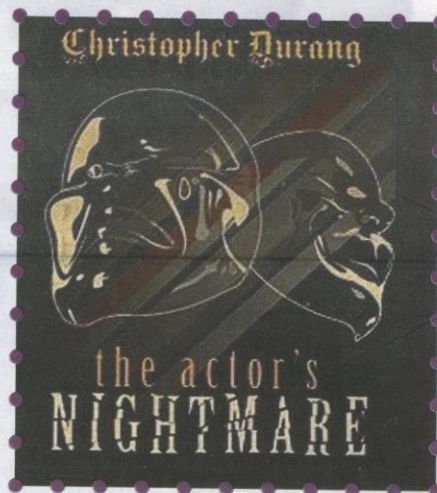
Business Lunch at the Russian Tea Room,

Directed by Nolan Spear
Chris: John Fioravanti
Melissa: Maddie Peterson
Margaret: Margaret Ann Whitton
Priest: Clarke Allen
Rabbi: Summer Kapenka



The Actor's Nightmare,

Directed by Tanner McCormick
George: Jack Capizzi
Henry: Harrison Kidd
Executioner: Harrison Kidd
Sarah: Ashlyn Dentz
Ellen: Corinne Gibson
Meg: Sterling Akers



Bride and Gloom,

Directed by Hudson Coombs
Andrew: Jackson Wooten
Lori: Delaney Jacoway



Bromance,

Directed by Matt Remke
Jack: Devon Rundberg
Brody: Jordan Rosdeutcher
Allen: Andy Zhu

Mass Appeal,

Directed by Drew Gordon
Mark Dolson: Patrick Andreen
Father Tim Farley: John Powell Cooper

Tech,

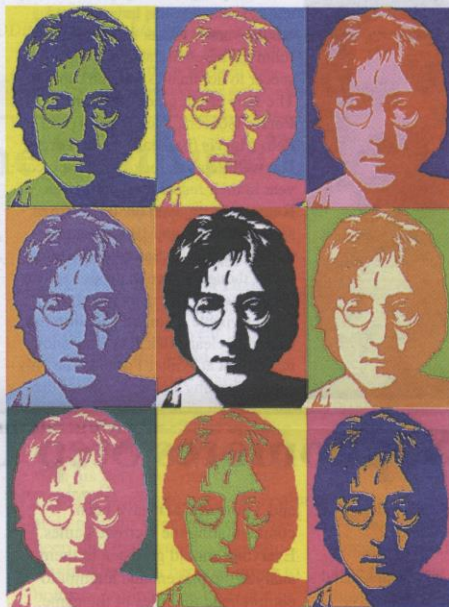
Stage Manager: Jamie Payne
ASMs: Ellen Compton, Donovan Sohr, Benton Dodd, & Cameron McDonald Surman
Costumes: Margaret Rogers
Music & Sound: Jack Brandes
Lights: Tony Neuhooff & Harrison Avery

Pop Art Preview

Each year, the prom committee selects a specific theme around which to base the dance.

This year, after much consideration, the theme of "Pop Art" has been selected, and it promises to be a great one. In order to properly introduce this theme of "Pop Art" to the student body, The Bell Ringer presents to you a sampling of the works of Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, and James Rosenquist, artists whose pieces you may view on the dance floor come April 2!

Andy Warhol



Roy Lichtenstein



James Rosenquist



Juniors Admire Lacrosse Haircuts

By Marco Rubio
Native of Florida

Spring is here, gentlemen. Spring means warmer weather, longer days, and a daily bird call from **Logan Cashwell**. Spring also means beating Ensworth in every sport for three months. And spring of junior year also means prom.

It is the juniors' first prom, and they've been frantically trying to



find dates, similar to freshman year homecoming. No one will ever ask as early as **Gabe Mendoza** did in freshmen year with Addie Perkerson, though. Notable details about prom: **George Harwell** goes round three with Carrie Haynes, **Connor Mulloy** will actually be able to smile this dance, and though **Matthew Dobson** has not decided on going to the dance yet, you can count on him crashing your afterparty.

The junior class has also started to do their spring cleaning. The wrestling and basketball teams have cleaned out the varsity locker room, making room for baseball, lacrosse, and soccer to dominate sports on campus. The stars of our grade, **William Porter** (soccer), **Jack Hayles** (lax), **Sam Morris** (baseball), and **George Harwell** (tennis), look to have a great year in their respective sports. **Ben Ramon** has enjoyed his fair share of spring cleaning on MBA's campus during his regular Saturday morning visits, though someone needs to clean his neck as he has many paintball bruises visible. **Duncan McGinn** has started to clean **Nick Ray's** seconds that he left at Winter Formal. The only spring cleaning **Logan Cashwell** has

been doing is power cleaning (lifting); it is easy to see his progression as he is often times found without a shirt on.

Politics has been a hot topic during the weekly presidential primaries in the junior class. In the mock election held by MBA faculty and students, **Trump** and **Bernie** were clearly the favorites on the hill. **Hillary** received very little support, despite **Brett Star** voting for her 20 times. **Cal Rieke** is loving his attention that he gets for being a **Kasich** fan. **Mac Lassing** revealed that he supports **Trump** because his "Make America Great Again" bumper sticker looks good on his truck.

If you are ever wavering in your unconditional support of **Donald Trump**, just sit down with **Hudson Dobbs** or **Frist Allen**, as they will surely convince you that **Trump's** racism is irrelevant since he "just



ABOVE: **Nick Ray**, pictured here with **Lorna Ramage**, is an absolute beast.

LEFT: **Haden Watchler** is really feeling the love this prom season

tells it like it is." It has been a blast to watch **Frist** get absolutely obliterated on Facebook following his measly defense of **Trump** following **John Oliver's** epic roast of **Donald "Drumpf."**

Juniors, if we study hard enough we can make the fourth quarter great again! Stay Dixie, Juniors!

Sophomores Step Up Snapchat Game

By Ty Allen and Phil Scholer
Thing 1 and Thing 2

The third quarter had been a grind for the sophomores. Athletically, we are making a huge impact. Although **Cal (midshipman) Bryan** had a costly penalty in the Trinity game, he is still ripping sick shots and leading the lacrosse team to big victories. **Palmer Thombs**

and **Thomas Carr** have been commentating the lacrosse games. Everyone should go listen to them analyze the players and attempt to comprehend the rules of the game.

After his winter formal performance, the debate team has been recruiting **Rob Harvey** for his persuasive ability. However, he now has to get a real lawyer for his defense.

Shout out to **Ben Elasy**, **John Spurgon**, and **Matthew Bulow** for making the tennis team. Also shout out to **Miller Freeman** for making the baseball team. Although the basketball season is over, **Drew Wiekert** is still balling with his new girlfriend. The ladies love **Drew** more than Mr. Gioia loves the Ben Franklin statue.

A special shout

out goes to the few people who came to the sophomore mixer. Although the numbers were small, **McClain Portis** put it perfectly: "Size doesn't matter." One of the people who made this mixer great was the class stud himself, **Palmer Thombs**. As many of you know, **Palmer** and **Matthew's** twin had to call things off. Although disappointed at first, **Palmer** now takes a new perspective. Recently, he said, "Two of the grade down, the rest to go." So, Saint Cecilia, get ready, because **Palmer's** coming back better than ever.

Speaking of relationships that don't work, **Wes Hall** is still recovering from being ripped off. It turns out **Carter Smith** has had a girlfriend for the past year. He's more devoted to her than **Yosef Howard** is to **Donald Trump**.

We would like to encourage everyone to work in the garden with Harpeth Hall. We would also like to give **Ruff Maddux** and **Tyson Briggs** a shout out for being so high on the Dominican Republic



ABOVE: It's definitely time for **Stephen Dashiff** to get a haircut

LEFT: Few loved Winter Formal quite as much as **William Kinard**.

leadership chart. Their work is truly influential.



Freshmen Prepare to Face Seaside

By Sam Funk and Garrett Murphy
Staff Infections

The ninth grade seems to be pretty dull at the moment. With no prom to look forward to, the ninth grade is left with only "Marshall Summer's movie night at MBA" on the schedule. A private screening of *Shrek* while enjoying the company of girls-what could be better? Many frosh thought that Spring Break would have arrived already, and their grades are certainly sliding. However depressing as this time may be, students have one full quarter left to grind.

Many people decided to "take the L" in the Freshman Speech Competition by simply deciding to wing it the day of their speech. Some freshmen thought that the judges wouldn't care if they weren't prepared, or were a full two minutes under the

time limit. They were able to complete their speeches on a Saturday morning. In the finals, **Jack Harrington** ended up winning the competition, but many were disappointed that underdog **William Bradford** didn't pull out the upset. With Peachy and her dishes and a dude with a bowl cut and a high voice, Bradford looked to be the clear frontrunner. But with **Harrington** dealing out the cold hard facts about privacy, the judges gave him the award for top speech. Congrats to **Julian Habermann** as well for making it to the finals with a superb effort.

In other news, field day is looking a little crazy this year. In the 4 x 200 meters, I was informed that the cardinal team has **Charlie Buffkin**, **Ethan Way**, **Sam Dugan**, and **William Wheeler** lined up against **Bubba Lampley**, **Jaden Smith**, and the **Arwen twins**. This looks to be a wild matchup. Also, many "cardinals in secret" are try-

ing to remove **Charlie Buffkin** from the football A team because of his "excessive leadership." Hopefully we will see the showdown of **Sam Decoster** and **Julian Habermann** in the quiz bowl section. That would likely be the matchup of the century. In soccer, we hope C team greats like **Otto Olafson** will be able to ramp up the activity on the pitch. Will **Franklin Frazier** dominate? Many questions remain to be answered on this momentous field day.

Also in the sporting world, the freshmen have really stepped up their game. As of now, we have one varsity lacrosse player, **Jackson Hannah**. In soccer, **Luke Bernatavitz**, who started as an eighth grader, is leading with authority. The Class of 2019 currently has three varsity players on the roster: **Ethan Way**, **Henry Hylbert**, and **Luke Willy Davis** has been chugging five protein shakes a day, and is really

trying to put in work for next year's varsity basketball tryouts. JV lacrosse is looking the best team on the hill. With **James Vest** ducking as every shot comes at him in goal, their defense has been impenetrable. More to come on sports as we progress into the season.

On a more serious note, several freshmen have been pushing the bounds of stupidity by sticking paper clips in electrical outlets. If you happen upon a freshman attempting this idiotic task, please grab them by the scruff of the neck and lead them away. For about the third time, another "accident" has been found on the floor in Massey. If anyone has any information about this event, please report it to Ms. Stewart. With Spring Break coming up, freshmen are also desperate trying to find a ride to Seaside or Rosemary. However, as we all know, the Dominican Republic is the way to go.

Seniors Prepare for the "Culture" of Cancun

By Werner Bradshaw
Amari Cooper

It's March of senior year. This fact has many implications for the class of '16, but most importantly, we now know that **Russell McGinn** will be attending prom in just a few weeks. This means a new wave of Rusty prom pictures is on the way. But that's not all we seniors have to look forward to. Spring Break is like, now. It's here. And we in the twelfth grade will travel all over the place, some farther than others, but all with the same goal: spread the joy of the Big Red.

However, SB (heck ya!) and Prom are not the only things on our minds. Following a time-honored family tradition, **Brandon Bennett**

recently set out on an adventure into the wilderness on the eve of a full moon. As the full moon slowly receded into the night, Brandon went to sleep. After waking up, Brandon wiped the morning dew off of his chin and suddenly realized his campsite had been ravaged by a pack of wild doggies. Brandon didn't take **David Wise's** advice: "Beware. The real wolves come out in us all in the midst of a full moon." Clearly, this past weekend was a dramatic one for ole Brando.

College is approaching at the speed of **Adam Young's** debate voice, and the prospect of leaving Music City is truly terrifying for some of our seniors. However, you

can bet a **Scowden**-sized dollar that **Jack King** has absolutely no fear of heading off into the world of the SEC. **KP Frazier**, on the other hand, may or may not be taking a gap year to pursue his career in the world of piano. **Harrison Wachtler** shares a similar inclination, as he has often pondered the benefits of opening up his own hair salon, complete with his very own line of "hats."

On the academic front, the senior slide remains ever-present. It has been said that even the majestic **Yavin Alwis** has become prone to bouts of complacency, a fact that we at *The Bell Ringer* find utterly implausible.

Finally, as usual, seniors have

been dominating the sports world. Though **Joseph Scowden** briefly pondered the possibility of pursuing an acting career alongside **Nolan Spear**, he has recently decided to remain committed to the track team, choosing to abstain from all meat and dairy products until he holds up a state championship trophy. If you pass Scow in the hallways, make sure to congratulate him on this daring quest.

Also, the spring marks an amazing time for one of our class's true treasures: **John Kelly**. John has recently been freed of all after-school athletic requirements, and his smile has never been bigger. Like a mother bear who has found her cub, John seems to have finally reached a state of peace. Bravo.

Carry on, seniors. The end is near.

TIME GONE BY: As graduation draws closer and closer, we look back on the youthful bunch that now makes up our senior class.



Meet The Big Red Candidates



What a time to be alive. Spring has sprung, prom is approaching, and we are in the thick of a presidential primary season. It seems that nearly everyone on the Hill has an opinion about a particular candidate, and some teachers even appear to be taking sides as well. With that in mind, the braintrust that is The Bell Ringer has decided to reflect on the uncanny parallels between the 2016 candidates and several of our beloved teachers on the Hill.



Bernie Sanders – Mr. Herring



While “Disco Dan” has managed to avoid an arrest for peaceful “protest,” the similarities between Mr. Herring and Bernie are unmistakable. From the frazzled hair and fiery lecture style to their dual presence at Woodstock in the summer of ‘69, the two form a beautiful pair. In his frequent incense-burning sessions atop Wallace, Mr. Herring is known to daydream about the charms of Senator Sanders, with three words frequently coming to mind: Sixties. Style. Revolution. Keep an eye out for Mr. Herring to suddenly begin a daring trek to Vermont in the coming weeks. For in all likelihood, the voice of Bernie will call him home.



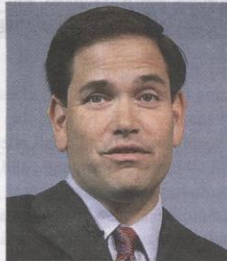
Ted Cruz – Mr. Clark



While Mr. Clark may be a Mormon, if you walk by his classroom, you’re likely to catch an earful of his proselytizing his “Judeo-Christian values” upon students. This daily occurrence is what marks the bridge between Clark and Cruz. They also share a similar foreign policy plan: openly carpet bomb the Middle East. Clark was quoted last week as stating, “Let’s see if sand glows in the dark.” Still it must be noted that only one member of this duo spends his days circling a lecture hall and asking himself the all-important question: “Am I really that creepy?”



Marco Rubio – Dr. Boyd



The resemblance is right in front of us. Both men may or may not be US citizens, both possess a youthful spirit, both love repetitive public speaking, and both hail from exotic, underdeveloped lands—Florida and England respectively. Clearly Dr. Boyd and Marco Rubio are cut from the same cloth. Just look at the pictures! Both look slightly confused, as if they may or may not understand American culture. Just last week, during his second period MEHAP class, Dr. Boyd became unable to cease repeating the sentence: “Let’s dispel with this fiction that Mr. Norton doesn’t know what he’s doing. He knows exactly what he’s doing.” He later had to be escorted from the premises by Colonel Sharbel.



Hillary Clinton – Ms. Palmore



Dominating intellect. Pure savagery. These are just two phrases that mark the juxtaposition of Ms. Palmore and Hillary Clinton. Think about it. Ms. Palmore is notoriously tech-savvy. How do we know that her MBA email does not contain classified documents answering all of the Hill’s burning questions? Like Hillary’s reported awareness of “what really happened at Benghazi,” Ms. Palmore’s knowledge of “the secret to lacking chill” and “the hidden location of Dr. Batten” often crosses the mind of both students and voters alike. But don’t worry Ms. Palmore, your emails are safe on the MBA server. We hope...



Donald Trump – Colonel Sharbel



Though he is often mistaken for a Sanders enthusiast, Colonel Sharbel will have you know that he will not stand for any of that “socialist BS...the last thing America needs is a Commie in the White House.” While Donald’s young adulthood in a New York penthouse may trump Colonel Sharbel’s actual military service, the two combine to form a back-slapping, ‘Merica-loving duo. No matter how many “emails” Colonel Sharbel accidentally sends to the entire school, we here at *The Bell Ringer* are confident that his poll numbers won’t suffer.

